

JAPAN CHRISTIAN ACTIVITY NEWS

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BILLY GRAHAM CAMPAIGN IN JAPAN

The visit of Dr. Billy Graham was the outstanding event of the month of February. Indeed, it was unquestionably a memorable event in the history of the protestant movement in Japan. In the field of evangelism nothing like it has happened here in the past century of modern missions.

Of special significance was the splendid spirit of cooperation manifested in the sponsoring committees in Tokyo and Kansai. Under the able chairmanship of Dr. Edwin B. Dozier, Southern Baptist missionary in Tokyo and Dr. William A. McIlwaine, Southern Presbyterian missionary in Kobe, a spirit of cooperation was manifested that has not been seen in the last decade. Japanese ministers on the committee were representative of all the diverse denominations in Japan and worked together in a way that seemed truly an answer to the prayer "that they may all be one."

As elsewhere in the world where-ever Dr. Graham has gone, records were broken. Never before have so many people, Christians and non-Christians, —perhaps more than 30,000—sought to hear the Christian message at one time. Never before were so many—perhaps ten thousand—turned away from an evangelistic service, as was the case at the International Stadium in Tokyo on the evening of February 21st. There were seats for 15,000. Perhaps 2,000 more stood. An hour before the scheduled time for beginning, police closed the doors. When the speaker arrived, some 3,000 were clamoring outside for admittance and he had difficulty in getting in. Other thousands had come and gone.

REMARKS OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

At the City of New York, on the 1st day of January, 1861.

My friends, I have the honor to announce to you that

the President of the United States has been elected

and that the inauguration will take place on the 4th day of March.

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Inside the hall Cliff Barrows of the Graham team led the audience, some of whom had arrived early in the afternoon, in gospel hymns while the Salvation Army Band furnished the accompaniment. At the close of the service 1,311 persons, including about 200 from those standing outside, signed cards indicating a decision to commit their lives to Christ. They could not "come forward" because of the structure of the stadium.

In Osaka on February 24, the Nakanoshima Public Hall was packed with about 4,000 people, while some 2,500 stood without. Prior to this service Dr. Graham addressed an overflow meeting of about 4,000, who stood around an improvised platform in the Nakanoshima Park. 753 decisions were recorded that evening.

The focal points of the week, however, were the conferences for ministers and church workers in Tokyo on February 20, 21 and in Osaka on February 25. It is estimated that 80-90% of all the protestant ministers in Japan attended. More than 3,000 applied for the Tokyo conference alone, where two additional assembly halls were required to accommodate the overflow from Tucker Hall (seating capacity 1,500) at Rikkyo University. Attendance in Osaka exceeded 2,500. Evangelism, its content and method, was the key note at these morning sessions.

So deeply impressed were the members of sponsoring committees by the magnetic personality and deep faith of Billy Graham that they now hope to bring him to Japan again in 1959 as a fitting culmination of one hundred years of Christian evangelism and what is hoped may be the initial impetus for an expanding evangelistic zeal in the second century of protestism in Japan.

For the missionaries, some of whom came from very remote stations especially to hear him, Dr. Graham's message on "Be Filled with the Spirit" was an inspiration and a challenge. Aware of the unfortunate divisions which exist in the missionary body, he brought to most, if not all, a new unity of spirit, an awareness of personal inadequacy and a hope and prayer that a way may be found for all to work together for the spread of the gospel of Jesus Christ in Japan.

Dr. Graham spoke on Sunday morning to 2,700 service personnel at Kyoritsu Hall in Tokyo and to 4,000 at Fryer Gymnasium in Yokohama on Sunday evening. More than 200 signed cards of decision were received at the first, and 270 responded to the invitation at the second.

Too many people for mention here worked to provide the program, personnel, and physical facilities for the meetings. But the reason for the success of the meetings lay elsewhere. During the preceeding week more than 200 Christians gathered for prayer each morning in Tokyo at Salvation Army Hall. And similar meetings were held throughout the country. The sincere prayers offered in the pulpits and in thousands of homes throughout Japan,

and the devoted, unassuming, humble spirit of God's servant who shared his faith and inspired others to reconsecrate themselves to the master: this is what brought success, new life, new consecration and new faith.

NEW CONCORDANCE ANNOUNCED

The Literature Commission of the National Christian Council announces plans for publication of a concordance of the Old and New Testaments based on the New Colloquial Bible. The manuscript for the New Testament was finished in February. It references 5,000 words. Completion of the Old Testament is scheduled for the spring of 1957 and publication is due in the fall of that year. Before the war there was one concordance for the Old Testament and there were three for the New. All were published privately. This is the first concordance to include the entire Bible and the first one to be published under church auspices. A feature of the volume will be Hebrew-Japanese and Greek-Japanese word lists. Preparation of the concordance is in the hands of the Reverend Kaichi Baba.

EMPLOYMENT FOR GRADUATES

Christian schools, which are now in the midst of the perennial problem of finding employment for their graduates, are facing a somewhat improved situation this year. At Aoyama Gakuin 75% of the 588 graduates seeking positions have already been located. At Rikkyo University 86% or 659 of the 985 graduates of the economic, literary and science departments, who want work, have found employment. In the science department 100% have been successful, in economics 90% and in literature 75%. The faculty member in charge expects to be able to locate all graduates who desire work. At Meiji Gakuin, however, the situation is less encouraging. Out of a total of 545 graduates, 351 are asking for employment, but only 79 or 38% have been located thus far. In general, reports indicate that the problem for most schools of the country is a very serious one. Aoyama Gakuin and Rikkyo University graduates appear to be especially fortunate.

IN BRIEF

Rev. Gosaku Okada, Vice Moderator of the United Church of Christ in Japan, Dr. Darley Downs, secretary of the Interboard Committee, and Prof. Makoto Goto, Professor of Rikkyo University and representative of the N.C.C., are in Bangkok attending the Asia Council on Ecumenical Missions.

A memorial service for Mr. Russel L. Durgin, former honorary secretary of the National Y.M.C.A., at Tokyo Union Church on February 24 was attended by many eminent persons representative of

such organizations as the Bank of Japan, American Japan Society, Rotary, Boy Scouts, International Christian University, and the N.C.C.

RURAL MISSIONS COURSE

Dr. Hachiro Yuasa will deliver the opening address at the 1956 Short Course for Rural Missionaries, which is to be held at International Christian University March 19-24. Dr. Gordon Bowles of Tokyo University will lecture on "The Process of Change in Rural Japan", (anthropological). Dr. Jesse Steiner of I.C.U. will speak on "Getting People to Change in Rural Japan" (sociological). Dr. Toyohiko Kagawa will discuss "How to start a Rural Church." And Dr. Edward Clark will present the "History of Rural Evangelism in Japan."

The preacher at the worship service on March 21 will be Dr. Hugh Moreton. In addition there will be forums and discussions on the following: Vocal and Literature Evangelism, Audio Visual Aids in Rural Evangelism, Rural Social Service and Evangelism, Agricultural Evangelism, and Training and Use of Leadership. Devotions will be in charge of Dr. Evelyn Kreider of I.C.U. Alden E. Mathews is chairman of the Committee in charge. Other committee members are: Robert Bruns, secretary, E. F. Carey, Dorothy Auxt, Peyton Palmore, Margaret Trueman and Dr. David Lindstrom.

Dr. Lindstrom established the first course at I.C.U. three years ago and was the leader of the project until his return to the US last December. On March 9 twenty seven applications for registration had been received.

BIKINI TESTS

Japanese Christians, in common with the rest of the people of the country, are very much disturbed by the projected H-Bomb tests scheduled for the Bikini atoll this year. It had been hoped here that the disastrous results of the 1954 tests would bring to an end experiments of this nature in the Pacific.

The issue is not only the possible loss of life or bodily injury such as occurred in 1954. Nor is it the inevitable financial loss which the fishing industry will incur, because certain areas are closed and fishermen must make longer cruises. The issue is primarily psychological. The Japanese people object to these tests being conducted in an area far removed from the American Continent, where United States interests will be unaffected, but where Japan must again for the fourth time be the principal victim, even if only in the economic field. Dr. Michio Kozaki, Chairman of the National Christian Council, commenting on the recent US announcement said: "At the Evanston meeting of the World Council

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THE ANNALS OF JAPAN

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of Churches, we presented an appeal against such experiments and demanded that, if America conducts such tests, it be done within the domain of that country. We also appealed to Great Britain and the USSR. I am very much surprised by this announcement and will do my utmost to oppose the projected experiments."

The Reverend Takeshi Muto, Moderator of the United Church of Christ in Japan, is equally emphatic in expressing his opposition. He said: "The National Diet expressed the will of the entire nation when it demanded that America, England, and Soviet Russia suspend experiments with A-H bombs. I am very much disappointed at the news that notwithstanding this protest experiments are going to be conducted at Bikini this year. Since the proposed danger zone is much wider than previous and the tests will cover a longer period, our life and economic existence is greatly jeopardized. When I am in the United States this year I want to convey to the entire nation the will of the Japanese people. I had hoped that America would reflect on this matter and am very much disappointed that it is going ahead with further experiments."

COMING EVENTS

The annual meeting of missionaries affiliated with the United Church of Christ in Japan is to be held at Sanmaiso, Yumoto-Hakone, April 3-6. The speakers are Dr. Darley Downs, Reverend J. C. DeMaagd, Dr. Kenneth E. Heim and Dr. Howard W. Outerbridge. The movie "Martin Luther" will be shown on the evening of April 5.

The Reverend Takeshi Muto, Moderator of the United Church of Christ in Japan, will leave Japan on March 20 to attend the General Conference of the Methodist Church to be held in Minneapolis, Minnesota this spring. He is scheduled to return to Japan at the end of June.

Mr. James C. "Golden Rule" Penny and the Reverend Weyman Huckabee of the Laymen's Movement for a Christian World, will arrive in Japan late in March for a three weeks visit of speaking and conferences. Their schedule includes visits to Sapporo, Sendai, Tokyo, Yokohama, Kyoto, Osaka, Kobe, Hiroshima and Fukuoka.

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The Japan Christian Activity News regrets to announce that, due to pressure of other duties and impending relocation, Mr. Palmore has resigned from the staff. He has rendered splendid service during the past two years and will be greatly missed. Because of this situation two issues of JCAN were not published. Pending appointment of a permanent editor to assist Mr. Tsukahara temporary arrangements have been made and future issues will be published on schedule.

